



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ronald Jackson, Executive Director
Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority
757-727-6337

HUD Approves the Plan to Replace Lincoln Park

(August 12, 2013: Hampton, Virginia) - The city of Hampton's largest housing project is one step closer to being history thanks to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority received approval for plans to remove the aging Lincoln Park public housing community in a memo received this week from the Office of Public Housing.

"There is still a lot to be done before the work gets started," says HRHA Director Ronald Jackson. "But HUD's approval of the project is an important milestone that we hope will be seen as welcome news for the families of Lincoln Park."

HUD has approved the HRHA request for the demolition of 2 non-dwelling buildings, 17 dwellings containing 289 units, and then the disposal of the more than 20 acres of land. The aging Lincoln Park project, built in the early 1970s, will be replaced with town homes and garden-style apartments in partnership with private developers.

"What will replace Lincoln Park will be a mixed-income community, not a project," says Jackson. "Our goal is to create homes that any current Lincoln Park resident and current or future resident of the City of Hampton would be proud to call home."

The next step in the structured HUD process will be to obtain housing vouchers for the families currently living in the Lincoln Park Apartments, made available by the federal government for public housing relocations. A Housing Choice Voucher will be offered to eligible families in Lincoln Park that can be used to help them move to a community of their choice. This application process is expected to take at least a few months. In that time, HRHA will continue one-one meetings with tenants to keep them up to date on timelines and assist in relocation planning.

Through a variety of supportive services, the HRHA Relocation Services Team will assist residents to:

- Identify suitable and comparable replacement housing,
- Coordinate physical moves, and
- Access any counseling and social services that may be needed to improve their quality of life.

"This project and how we manage it is a chance for HRHA to live its mission," says Aaru Ma'at, Director of Community Development for HRHA. "That is to provide well-planned and attractive communities for our residents while assisting families in maintaining self-sufficiency. Another goal is to help our Lincoln Park residents find the good home they deserve so we can transform the current property into a community of choice."

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